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BUILDING AND IMPLEMENTING DEMOCRATIC TOOLS FOR CHOICE

Territorial Intelligence and climate change

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Climate change is a very interesting case for studying territorial intelligence (with examples in French western areas):

- 1- Because of divergent temporal terms, from short-term reactivity to mid-term contracts until long-term inflexions.
- 2- Because it is a global issue, concerning and connecting everybody.
- 3- Because of varying territorial scales

Dealing with climate change, we already can observe several answers:

From one part, some technical answers

Observation and assessment ;

Emerging and instituting a specific professional field.

From the other part, we notice political answers:

Building a multidecisional univers ;

Improving the efficacy of democracy.

So, fight against climate change requires a better connection between governance and territorial intelligence. Between action and democratic participation, how to improve governance ?

In fact, there are three conflicting injunctions about main objectives, about methods, and about challenges. This paper aims at presenting contradictions about the climate change policies, particularly front of the dilemma between local adaptation and global attenuation.

Three conflicting injunctions for implementing tools of territorial intelligence :

1 - A double term calendar : the long run versus the short run

The long run

The objective of the territorial intelligence is to light long term future.

The method employed is territorial forecast and building scenarios.

The challenge is to choose a strategy (e.g. adaptation/attenuation ?).

For instance, since 1988, IPCC (International panel on climate change) has provided long run predictions and looks for inflexions between expected and real change.

Since 1994, (very early), the Social and economic council of Brittany (CESR) has created a regional forecast section. Several scenarios according to climate change depht and to political governance (more or less centralized) were presented to the Brittany council on 2009.

The short run

At the short term, the objective is to react immediately to any climate disaster.

The method needs material support for urgent capacity to act.

The challenge consists in legitimating political decision and execution.

For example :

The French national state have created Risk prevention plans (PPR1995), rescue organization (ORSEC), and, if necessary, crisis unit.

The French departments organize Fire and rescue service (SDIS) againsts floods and fires.

The mayors may decide bye-law in municipalities.

2 - An incomplete democracy : consulting councils versus warning NGO

Consulting

The objective of representatives is to legitimate their policies upon advices. A lot of consulting councils have been created to do it. They are political instituted arenas, which challenge is to formalize « social » democracy: Trade Unions and Federations join to discuss about territorial choices.

For instance, in Brittany, the second regional council (CESR) have been consulted about coastline landscape, and voted for the Coastal spaces chart.

By the law, development councils of counties (« *pays* ») and urban areas (« *agglomérations* ») vote advices about urban planning (SCoT, PDU, PDE).

Warning

Dealing with new issues as climate change, we observe the legitimacy of new suitable institutions. They involve new parties for a more societal democracy.

Among these institutions, we select networks as Energy-Cities (26 countries in EU).

In France, the “Grenelle del’Environnement” (2007) is an original experience to initiate a new policy. NGO improve at every level of decision.

We generally notice more acknowledged people: “Qualified people” in Brittany economic and social council ; Academy of technologies in urban agglomeration Rennes-Metropole.

To communicate and to mobilize : local scale

To mobilize local inhabitants, it seems necessary to deliberate at local scale

(50 000 inhabitants in the French law). So, policies against climate change are based upon *bottom up* initiatives. Local municipalities need this method to stand in territorial *benchmarking*.

By the “Grenelle” law (2009/08/03), territorial climate-energy plans (PCET) (english SEAP) are emerging : for instance, on december 2009, an “Open Forum” took place for a drawing up democracy in the city of Rennes.

French urban areas (Grand Lyon and Lille Metropole) have established a *scoring* of “ordinaries heroes” ; The city of Nantes wishes to become the future “European green capital” on 2012 or 2013.

Improving consistency of different policies : multi-level governance

Local elected representatives strive towards more coherence. This one needs an agreement about multi-level competences. The renewal of territorial planning is the best method to achieve this aim. The challenge is to obtain a strong mandate from the society to its representatives.

At EU scale, the best example is the “ Covenant of mayors committed to local sustainable energy “: since 2009/02, more than one thousand local authorities have been engaged in this program, to build SEAP (Sustainable energy action plan) (French PCET)
In France, by the law (2009/08/03), Spatial planning plan (SCoT) must fix calculated targets for space using. In France too, common-building between all parties involved improves for SEAP-PCET.

Concluding about implementing according to climate challenge : To be successful, it must achieve :

A political aim

By overcoming suspicion about policies (Pierre Rosanvallon “*défi*ance”) and by building a less agonistic and more peaceful democracy.

Implementing a technical support

By providing material and financial support for territorial intelligence : engineering and material means for everybody.

To identify societal challenge

To solve conflicting injunctions for citizens, to allow them being both informed and warned about new global issues, as, for instance, fight against climate change.